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News Brief

Bangladesh hosted the 10th D-8 Virtual Summit held yesterday with the theme 'Partnership for Transformative World: Harnessing the Power of Youth and Technology', participated by leaders of Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan delivered the opening remarks as the current Chair of D-8 and handed over the D-8 Chairmanship to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Sheikh Hasina has taken over the charge as the D-8 Chair for the next two years for the second time. President of Indonesia Joko Widodo, President of Iran Hassan Rouhani, Prime Minister of Malaysia Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Egypt Mostafa Madbouly and Foreign Minister of Nigeria Geoffrey Jidefor Kwusike Onyeama on behalf of its President Muhammadu Buhari addressed the summit. At the summit, Dhaka Declaration 2021 and D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030 were adopted.

While delivering closing remarks at the 10th D-8 Summit as the new Chair, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the D-8 leaders to come forward for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis and address the challenges posed by climate change alongside laying emphasis on trade, investment, cooperation and harnessing the power of youth. The Bangladesh Premier said, said as the Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum-CVF, Bangladesh will be happy to work with the D-8 member states on the issue of implementation of the Paris Agreement. Laying emphasis on tapping the power and potential of the youths who have made breakthroughs in business ideas, models, innovations and technologies, she said the youths of D-8 countries can be encouraged to come together through the business initiatives at private and even government to private level. She added that Bangladesh is moving forward optimally using the power of youth and technology with more than six hundred thousand IT professionals, 28 high-tech parks and technology friendly initiatives. Sheikh Hasina also briefly highlighted her government's different initiatives to minimize the offset of the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Dhaka proposed to sign a 'trade and investment cooperation agreement' among the D-8 member countries emphasizing the trade as the most important area of cooperation within the preview of D-8 platform. Foreign minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen in a virtual media briefing after ending of the D-8 Summit last evening also said, all the member states encouraged to explore the possibilities of developing and enhancing transport connectivity among D-8 Member States with the objective to facilitate the intraD-8 trade.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, her government will take tougher stance to protect lives of the people from the deadly coronavirus in view of massive surge in the infection and death rates in the last few days. The Premier said this while addressing the concluding ceremony of a six-month 71th Foundation Training Course for fresh cadre service officers through a video conference from Ganabhaban yesterday. Describing the fresh cadre service officers as the soldiers of 2041, she urged all to work with patriotism and the mentality of providing service to the people being imbued with the spirit of the great Liberation War. The Prime Minister said that she always prioritizes training for making civil service officers up to the mark and world standard keeping pace with the changing trends in the era of science and technology. The participants were connected from the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre and several other training centres. On behalf of the Prime Minister, State Minister for Public Administration Ministry Farhad Hossain handed over certificates among those secured first, second and third positions in the training course. Rector of BPATC Md. Rakib Hossain placed the result of the training course to the Prime Minister and administered oath to 307 fresh officers.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while speaking a press conference at his residence in Dhaka yesterday said, BNP needs 'political isolation' now as the party is infected with a more dangerous virus than coronavirus. The Minister said, BNP called upon the students and labourers to get united to oust the government but they did not pay heed to its call, and even the common people have no confidence in the party. Later, Obaidul Quader virtually inaugurated the construction work of a new eight-lane bridge at Aminbazar on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway under the Dhaka Road Zone.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is farmer-friendly and under her leadership, the present government has established good governance in fertilizer management to ensure better agricultural production in the country. He made the remarks at a virtual meeting of the National Coordination and Advisory Committee on Fertilizers from his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. At the meeting, the demand for chemical fertilizers in the fiscal year 2021-22 has been fixed at a total of 66 lakh metric

tons for intensive and expanded cultivation. With Committee Convener Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque in the chair, the virtual meeting was attended, among others, by Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun and State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed Mojumder.

Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin said the present government is committed to protect the environment and climate from the adverse effects of climate change. He said the government is reclaiming illegally occupied government forests, preventing deforestation, banning construction of illegal brick kilns, raising public awareness on noise pollution control and banning the use of polythene and single use plastics, to protect the environment. He made the remarks while addressing a virtual coordination meeting of his Ministry with the Divisional Commissioners from his residence yesterday.

Post and Telecommunication Minister Mostafa Jabbar addressing a function marking the E-CAB day on Wednesday said, digital commerce or D-commerce will control the whole business sector of the country in the coming days as the existing coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented demand for online-based business. The Minister said the significant growth of D-commerce occurred due to the various steps taken by the government along with coordinated efforts of the E-CAB leaders.

The government started administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine from yesterday as the countrywide vaccination campaign was launched on February 7. A total of 14,804 people were administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines. Meanwhile, Bangladesh yesterday registered 74 more Covid-19 deaths, breaking all the previous records. The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 9,521. At the same time recovery count rose to 565,030, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 6,854 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 666,132. A total of 69,89,924 people have so far been registered to receive COVID-19 vaccines till yesterday. Total number of vaccine receivers stood at 55,68,703.

The government will take stern action if any educational institutions are kept open violating the government order. Deputy Education Minister Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel said this after receiving the second dose of corona vaccine at Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday. Earlier, he inaugurated the second dose of the corona vaccine distribution programme at CMCH.

The government has allowed shops and shopping malls to reopen from 9am to 5pm with strict enforcement of the health guidelines from today to April 13. The government enforced country-wide weeklong lockdown for the second time on April 5 to contain the spread Covid-19.

Visiting Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane made a courtesy call on Bangladesh Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed at the Army Headquarters of Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed various issues related to the existing good relations between the armed forces of the two countries, implementation of the Border Road Organization, training of Army pilots, exchange of defense experts and trainers, mutual defense cooperation got priority during the discussion. Indian Army Chief arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a five-day visit.

United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka this morning as part of his first Asia tour, for consultations on increasing climate ambition ahead of a climate summit that Washington will host this month. He will hold a meeting with Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen and other officials concerned before calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He will hand over an invitation to the Premier to attend the "Leaders' Summit on Climate" to be held on April 22-23. US President Joe Biden has invited 40 world leaders to the summit to be hosted by him.

For service updating purpose, the e-mutation server will remain temporarily suspended across the country for two days starting today, said a Land Ministry press release yesterday.

Dhaka North City Corporation as part of Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project will introduce telemedicine services through its five maternity hospitals to facilitate proper information and health care services for the COVID -19 patients from today.


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